



September 1998

# COCAMS/NWA BEGINS THIRD YEAR

# Message from COCAMS/NWA President

## Chapter Members,

Welcome to the first COCAMS/NWA newsletter and to a new season of the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the AMS and NWA! I encourage all weather enthusiasts to participate actively in our Chapter meetings, subcommittees, and special events. Remember to attend our next meeting on October 20 to hear the thoughts of General Jack Kelly, Director of the National Weather Service.

One of my personal interests this year is to provide opportunities for COCAMS/NWA members from different agencies and businesses to become better acquainted, and for scientists to interact with students from the OU Student Chapter of the AMS. Although it has been "a few" years since I was an undergraduate student, I remember being thrilled to meet and work with those who were established in the field. It was through those experiences that I was able to refine where I thought my place in the science could be. I hope that this Chapter can offer similar experiences for current OU students.

Finally, I want to thank Past President Kit Wagner for

creating this newsletter. I know how much time it takes to complete this task, and am grateful for Kit's hard work!

Renee McPherson, President  
COCAMS/NWA

## Treasurer's Report

## Financial Report

Current Account Balance:	\$ 5486.71
Petty Cash:	\$ 27.00
Deposit Pending:	\$ 12.00

Total Available Funds      \$ 5525.71

## Membership Report

1998-1999 Members (Dues paid)	5
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## Audit Report

We audited the 1997-98 joint financial records of the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and Central Oklahoma Chapter of the National Weather Association on 11 August 1998. The audit considered a period of one year ending on 31 July 1998.

The records were kept in a very clear manner that allowed for checking all transactions. We compared ledger entries by Treasurer Charlie Crisp with checking account register and petty cash account record, examined all receipts for

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## COCAMS/NWA Officers

President	Renee McPherson	325-2541
Vice-President	John Snow	325-3101
Secretary	Joe Baalke	366-6560
Treasurer	Paul Janish	579-0719

transactions that appeared to require documentation, compared actual petty cash to that noted in the ledger, compared membership numbers to receipt of annual dues, and compared total income and expenses to beginning and ending balances. All items were supported by proper documentation. The overall balance of \$5394.71 shown by the financial record as of 31 July 1998 appears to be entirely correct.

We note that the tasks of the treasurer were compounded during the year by the occurrence of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the First Tornado Forecast. Sub-accounts were kept for financial transactions surrounding the symposium held as part of this event, for the expenses of a luncheon at Tinker Air Force Base, and for transactions dealing with sales of memorabilia in connection with the event. These accounts were kept with all detail possible considering the information given the treasurer, who is to be commended for his diligence in keeping track of such a large number of transactions, receipts, etc. The maintenance of these sub-accounts made available figures on profit or loss to the organization for each activity, and provides valuable information if similar events are planned in the future.

As a further note, we recommend that a set of procedures be set up for auditing the financial records of the organization in future years. Such guidance would ensure added uniformity in the auditing task.

Carl Hane  
JT Johnson

## Golden Jubilee Symposium on Tornado Forecasting

The Golden Jubilee Symposium on Tornado Forecasting, a scientific symposium on tornado forecasting and research, was held on March 24, 1998, at the University of Oklahoma, in Norman, OK. The Central Oklahoma Chapters of the American Meteorological Society and National Weather Association co-sponsored the meeting. It commemorated the historic tornado forecast made on March 25, 1948, by Air Force Capt. Robert C. Miller and Maj. Ernest J. Fawbush. This was the first operational tornado forecast issued in the U. S., and was credited with significantly reducing the loss of property and number of injuries caused by the strong tornado that formed subsequently on that day.

Presentations were delivered by ten scientists, recognized for their respective contributions to tornado forecasting and research. Their topics ranged from historical

perspectives of forecasting and warning, to theories and observing technology that have emerged over the past several years.

Session 1: The Tinker tornadoes of 1948, and Robert C. Miller. Robert presented by A. Maddox (Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, University of Oklahoma).

Session 2: Tornado forecasting: past, current, and future presented by Steven J. Weiss (Storm Prediction Center) and Joseph T. Schaefer (Storm Prediction Center).

Session 3: Doppler radar for tornado research and detection presented by Donald W. Burgess (Operational Support Facility/Operations Training Branch).

Session 4: Storm spotting and public awareness presented by Charles A. Doswell III (NSSL) and Alan R. Moller (National Weather Service, Ft. Worth, TX).

Session 5: Numerical modeling presented by Louis J. Wicker (Department of Meteorology, Texas A&M University) and Kelvin K. Droegemeier [Center for the Analysis and Prediction of Storms (CAPS), and School of Meteorology, University of Oklahoma].

Session 6: Tornado observations and research presented by Howard B. Bluestein (School of Meteorology, University of Oklahoma) and Erik N. Rasmussen (NSSL, and Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies, University of Oklahoma).

The COCAMS/NWA Symposium Committee members were R. J. Trapp, R. Davies-Jones, C. C. Buonanno, J. P. Craven, K. K. Droegemeier, C. Duchon, J. V. Houghton, R. A. Prentice, G. Romine, K. Schlachter, and K. K. Wagner.

## 50th Anniversary of the First Tornado Forecast Souvenirs

Some 50th Tornado Anniversary souvenirs remain. There are several large and XXL shirts available in both ash and natural colors. These will be available at the upcoming October NWA conference in Oklahoma City. Prices are \$12 for large and \$14 for XXL. Please contact Bill Conway at NSSL (405) 366-0461, email [conway@nssl.noaa.gov](mailto:conway@nssl.noaa.gov) for ordering information.

## NWA Annual Meeting

The 23rd annual meeting of the National Weather Association to be held at the Westin Oklahoma City Hotel and Conference Center, (One North Broadway) on October 18- 23.

On Sunday, the Broadcaster's Workshop will focus on collaboration between the media, emergency managers, the

NWS, and other private sector firms. There will be presentations on the real-time coverage given to several of the high profile storms of 1997 (Spencer, SD, Nashville, TN, Birmingham, AL, and the 30 May and 29 June Iowa Derechos). Two hands-on workshops aimed for the broadcasters, but open to all members will be held in the afternoon. One will be on forecasting the convective mode and the other on new concepts in interpreting Doppler radar.

The General sessions will feature two keynote address. On Monday we will hear from a representative of the NOAA Administrator, and on Wednesday, Jack Kelly the new Director of the NWS will speak. There will be 16 oral sessions on topics ranging from "Lightning" to "Weather System Help Desks." In addition, there will be two poster sessions. Three different hands-on workshops will be given. They will be on Fire Weather, on monitoring storm evolution, and a repeat of the convective mode forecasting exercise. Weather briefings will be held each day from Tuesday through Friday before the start of the day's activities.

The annual awards banquet will be held Wednesday evening with what promises to be an exciting presentation by guest speaker David O. Stillings, Florida's Lightning Stalker. David will show a number of lightning photos he has taken, with background music, stories, and poems. Finally, field trips to the Norman National Weather Service Facilities and the University of Oklahoma School of Meteorology will be conducted on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

## News from NSSL

### **NSSL scientists publish book: "The Electrical Nature of Storms"**

Oxford University Press has just published a new graduate textbook by two NSSL scientists, Don MacGorman and Dave Rust. Their book, *The Electrical Nature of Storms*, provides a comprehensive, modern treatment of electrical processes of thunderstorms. In recent years, new technologies have led both to dramatic advances in knowledge of these processes and to increasing use of lightning mapping systems by forecasters and other federal personnel concerned with weather hazards. However, most meteorologists have little experience either in this multi-disciplinary field or with lightning mapping systems. The authors' goal was to catalog and explain these topics systematically for both students and professionals. More information about their book is available at <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/~elecbook> on the internet.

### **NSSL Signs CRADA with Weather Data Inc.**

NSSL recently signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with Weather Data, Inc. to develop a lightning threat algorithm. This is the first time NSSL has entered such an agreement with a private company. The lightning threat algorithm will combine national-scale radar data with data from the National Lightning Detection Network in real-time to produce probabilities of lightning on a national scale. Two algorithms developed by MIT/LL (scale separation and correlation tracking) will be used to identify and forecast the location of radar echoes up to 30 minutes in advance. Then an algorithm developed by NSSL will utilize the cloud-to-ground lightning strike data from Global Atmospheric, Inc. along with the forecasted echo positions to determine which radar echoes are electrically active and a potential threat to Weather Data customers.

### **NSSL on tour with Universal Studios' Twister "Ride it out"**

NSSL scientists and one of the NSSL's Mobile Laboratories traveled from Boston to Miami and Minneapolis to New Orleans, a 15 state, 23 city promotional tour, this summer with Universal Studios Florida. Universal Studios Florida was promoting their new Twister attraction, that includes a fifty foot high, 15 foot wide vortex, the world's largest vortex simulator, patterned after work done at NSSL in the early seventies. Most of the stops were at children's science museums, where NSSL promoted severe storm research along with storm safety and awareness. Participating in this tour were Doug Forsyth, Les Showell, Jose Meitin, Harold Brooks and Ken Howard.

## News from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey

The Oklahoma Climatological Survey has been working to establish long-term stability for its OK-FIRST project. OK-FIRST was included in an initiative for funding through the Oklahoma Legislature. Along with EARTHSTORM, its K-12 Educational Outreach counterpart, OK-FIRST received \$250,000 through the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety. This new funding will be used to conduct additional training workshops, maintain and improve our communications infrastructure, and salaries and fringe benefits. Recently members of the OK-FIRST team at OCS met with representatives from NSSL, the NWS forecast offices in Norman and Tulsa, and the NWS Southern

Region Headquarters to discuss how to use OK-FIRST as a complement to the NWS's LDAD system. LDAD (Local Data Acquisition and Dissemination) is a component of AWIPS that will allow local forecast offices to ingest local data sources (like Mesonet and ALERT network data) and disseminate products to the public and special user groups such as Emergency Management. Because both Norman and Tulsa will be among the first NWS forecast offices to receive LDAD hardware, it was thought that this is a grand opportunity to create a prototype dissemination system that will capitalize on the strengths and expertise of the OCS, NSSL, and the NWS. It is thought that the lessons learned in Oklahoma can be used throughout the rest of the nation.

## Message from the Editor

This COCAMS/NWA Newsletter will be published periodically to disseminate information about our AMS and NWA local chapters and their members. As the newsletter editor, I will be soliciting news items from you from time to time. Please give me a call if you have news items or ideas for publication topics.

Kit Wagner, Editor.

### CALENDAR

September 24, 1998	COCAMS/NWA Monthly Meeting
October 18-23, 1998	NWA Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City
October 20, 1998	COCAMS/NWA Monthly Meeting

The COCAMS/NWA Newsletter is published jointly by the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the National Weather Association.

Published in Norman, Oklahoma

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